

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A heat insulating stamper with a pattern on a surface ~~thereof for use in molding an optical disc substrate~~, comprising:

an uppermost section made of a metal material;

a lowermost section made of ~~the same~~ a metal material ~~as the uppermost section~~; and

a middle section having a heat conductivity lower than the uppermost section, ~~the middle section comprising:~~

~~the same metal material as the uppermost and lowermost sections; and~~

~~heat-insulating portions dispersed in the metal material of the middle section~~

wherein the metal material of the lowermost section is same as the metal material of the uppermost section, and

wherein heat insulating portions are dispersed in a metal material forming the middle section, with a concentration of the heat insulating portion being high in a region of the middle section directly below the uppermost section and gradually lowering toward the lowermost section such that only the metal material forming the middle section exists on the lowermost section.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat insulating portions include heat resisting substances dispersed in the metal material of the middle section.

4. (Previously presented) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat insulating portions are defined by minute voids present within the metal material of the middle section.

5. (Currently amended) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim [[3]] 1,

wherein the middle section is in the form of a layer interposed between the uppermost section and the lowermost section; and

the heat resisting substances are dispersed in the metal material of middle section such that concentration of the heat resisting substances varies at least in a depth direction of the layer.

6. (Original) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal material includes Ni.

7. (Previously presented) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 3, wherein the heat resisting substances include at least one of a heat resisting resin and a heat resisting inorganic material.

8. (Previously presented) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 7, wherein the heat resisting resin includes at least one of particles of a fluorinated resin (PTFE: polytetrafluoroethylene, PFA: perfluoroalkoxy resin, ETFE: tetrafluoretilen, PVDF: polyvinylidene fluoride), aromatic polyimide particles, aromatic polyamide particles, and silicon resin particles.

9. (Previously presented) The heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 7, wherein the heat resisting inorganic material includes at least one of zirconia series, alumina series, silicon carbide series, and silicon nitride series.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a heat insulating stamper which includes an uppermost section made of a metal material, a lowermost section made of the same material as the uppermost section, and a middle section having a heat conductivity lower than the uppermost section, and including the same metal material as the uppermost section and the lowermost section, said method comprising:

a step of utilizing electroforming to manufacture said heat insulating stamper.

11. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing a heat insulating stamper as claimed in claim 10, wherein the lowermost section, the middle section, and the uppermost section are subjected to electrodeposition using a single electroforming apparatus.

12. (Withdrawn) An optical disc that is manufactured by using the heat insulating stamper of claim 1.